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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/692,084	10/19/2000	Katherine S. Lam	SOL-130	7954

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EXAMINER

LANIER, BENJAMIN E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2132

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/692,084	LAM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Benjamin E Lanier	2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-12 and 14-26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-21, 23-26 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 22 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 October 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to a telephone conversation held on 15 September 2003 with Mr. Douglas McAllister regarding the Final Action dated 9 September 2003 and how the action did not take into account that the amended claims, from the amendment dated 20 August 2003, included material from claims 2 and 13. Claim rejections and a response to the arguments from the telephone conversation as well as the previously mentioned amendment follow.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment of claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 18, 19, 23, and 24, cancellation of claims 2 and 13, and addition of claims 25 and 26 has been fully considered and is entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 20 August 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argument that the Thompson references does not disclose the selection of a dynamic range of bits to be scrambled is not persuasive because Sugisaki discloses method for producing scrambled video signals wherein it is possible to scramble, invert (scrambling key), only a certain number of the least significant bits (Col. 10, lines 65-67, Fig. 6) and the scrambling methods do not render the image completely unrecognizable, but rather only partially scramble the image (degraded), so that the image can be more or less recognized (Col. 11, lines 38-41). Thompson discloses that a dynamic range of bits is selected, and that this range is indicated in the header, for compression by one of two compression modes (Col. 9, lines 25-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select a dynamic range of bits in the method for producing scrambled video signals of Sugisaki in order to ensure that each frame is scrambled according to the same range of data.

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4. Applicant's argument that the Thompson reference does not disclose embedding the descrambling/decryption keys into the data is not persuasive because Thompson discloses that the data sample may be encrypted and that the prespecified keys may be embedded into the encrypted (scrambled) sample (Col. 9, lines 50-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to embed the scrambling key of Sugisaki in the sample in order to descramble as taught in Thompson (Col. 9, lines 36-60).

5. Applicant's arguments see Amendment B, filed 20 August 2003, with respect to claim 22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugisaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,535,275, in view of Thompson, U.S. Patent No. 5,185,794. Referring to claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 18, 19, 23-26, Sugisaki discloses method for producing scrambled video signals wherein it is possible to scramble, invert (scrambling key), only a certain number of the least significant bits (Col. 10, lines 65-67, Fig. 6) and the scrambling methods do not render the image completely unrecognizable, but rather only partially scramble the image (degraded), so that the image can be more or less recognized (Col. 11, lines

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38-41). It is possible to perform descrambling to restore the data to its original unscrambled condition (Col. 9, lines 64-67). Sugisaki discloses that each sample or pixel can be scrambled (intra-sample) and that the samples or pixels can be shifted or interchanged based on position data (horizontal inter-sample scrambling)(Col. 10, lines 47-51). Scrambling or shifting is also based on color difference information (Col. 8, lines 10-15)(same weight). Sugisaki does not disclose having a dynamic range of the sample for scrambling. Thompson discloses having dynamic range data available for the compression (scrambling) modes (Col. 9, lines 25-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to scramble the sample of Sugisaki according to a dynamic range in order to ensure that each frame is scrambled according the same range data.

Referring to claims 3 and 14, Sugisaki discloses that the scrambling methods are applied frame wise (Col. 10, lines 12-27, Abstract).

Referring to claims 5 and 16, Sugisaki discloses that the scrambling takes place within the same sample (Figs. 5 & 6).

8. Claims 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugisaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,535,275, in view of Thompson, U.S. Patent No. 5,185,794, as applied to claims 1 and 12, further in view of Schroeder, U.S. Patent No. 3,784,743. Referring to claims 4 and 15, Sugisaki discloses method for producing scrambled video signals wherein it is possible to scramble, invert (scrambling key), only a certain number of the least significant bits (Col. 10, lines 65-67, Fig. 6) and the scrambling methods do not render the image completely unrecognizable, but rather only partially scramble the image (degraded), so that the image can be more or less recognized (Col. 11, lines 38-41). It is possible to perform descrambling to restore

the data to its original unscrambled condition (Col. 9, lines 64-67). Sugisaki discloses that each sample or pixel can be scrambled (intra-sample) and that the samples or pixels can be shifted or interchanged based on position data (horizontal inter-sample scrambling)(Col. 10, lines 47-51). Scrambling or shifting is also based on color difference information (Col. 8, lines 10-15)(same weight). Thompson discloses having dynamic range data available for the compression (scrambling) modes (Col. 9, lines 25-35). Sugisaki does not disclose the scrambling key being a pseudo random scrambling key. Schroeder discloses a parallel data scrambler where the scrambling key is a pseudo random key (Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a pseudo random scrambling key in the method for producing scrambled video signals of Sugisaki because pseudo random keys are well known in the art.

9. Claims 9-11, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugisaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,535,275, in view of Thompson, U.S. Patent No. 5,185,794. Referring to claims 9-11, 20, and 21, Sugisaki discloses method for producing scrambled video signals wherein it is possible to scramble, invert (scrambling key), only a certain number of the least significant bits (Col. 10, lines 65-67, Fig. 6) and the scrambling methods do not render the image completely unrecognizable, but rather only partially scramble the image (degraded), so that the image can be more or less recognized (Col. 11, lines 38-41). It is possible to perform descrambling to restore the data to its original unscrambled condition (Col. 9, lines 64-67). Sugisaki discloses that each sample or pixel can be scrambled (intra-sample) and that the samples or pixels can be shifted or interchanged based on position data (horizontal inter-sample scrambling)(Col. 10, lines 47-51). Scrambling or shifting is also based on color difference

information (Col. 8, lines 10-15)(same weight). Sugisaki does not disclose embedding the scrambling key into the sample. Thompson discloses embedding the decryption keys (descrambling key) in the independent data portion of each frame (current, previous) so that the sample can be descrambled (Col. 9, lines 36-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to embed the scrambling key of Sugisaki in the sample in order to descramble as taught in Thompson (Col. 9, lines 36-60).

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 22 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

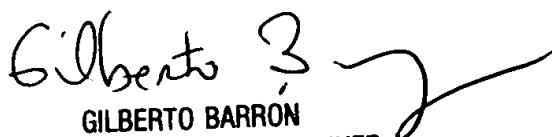
Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin E Lanier whose telephone number is 703-305-7684. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30am-5:00pm, F 7:30am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (703)305-1830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.


Benjamin E. Lanier


Gilberto Barron
GILBERTO BARRON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100